

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH, JR.:AG  
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
EUR/EE:CSCHMIDT  
H:PLAMPL  
EA:RSULLIVAN  
S/S:O:RCASTRODALE

-----119303 060112Z /62

O P 060055Z SEP 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY  
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0597

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225258

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE), KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: CODEL MCGOVERN POSSIBLE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) SEOUL 7810, (B) AMB GLEYSTEN/RICH SECURE TELECON  
9/1 ----

1. NORTH KOREAN INVITATION AS RECEIVED FROM THE ROMANIANS  
WAS PASSED TO SENATOR MCGOVERN HERE SEPT 1. MCGOVERN WAS  
ALSO INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN  
THE PROPOSED TRIP AND THAT IF HE TRAVELLED THE SENATOR  
SHOULD MAKE IT PLAIN TO ALL CONCERNED THAT HE WAS NOT  
TRAVELLING WITH EITHER APPROVAL OR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE  
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EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

2. THE SENATOR INFORMED US THAT HE HAD MADE NO REQUEST TO  
VISIT NORTH KOREA, BUT HAD SIMPLY INQUIRED OF THE ROMANIANS  
REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY. HE HAD ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED  
BY THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON RE THE NORTH KOREAN  
INVITATION, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER THE

MATTER FURTHER BEFORE DECIDING. HE APPARENTLY IS NOT PLANNING ANY EARLY ACCEPTANCE.

3. WE HAVE IN LOW-KEY FASHION INFORMED ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK ON SEPT 5 OF THE NORTH KOREAN INVITATION TO MCGOVERN. WE INFORMED ROK EMBASSY THAT QUESTION OF VISIT HAD ARISEN IN HYPOTHETICAL FASHION DURING SENATOR'S DISCUSSIONS IN BUCHAREST IN JULY, AND THAT APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF THAT DIALOGUE A NORTH KOREAN INVITATION TO COME SOMETIME AFTER SEPT 15 HAD BEEN CONVEYED THROUGH THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST FOR RELAY TO MCGOVERN. WE HAD RELAYED THE MESSAGE, BUT HAD ALSO CLEARLY MADE KNOWN THAT IF THE SENATOR TRAVELLED TO NORTH KOREA HE WOULD BE DOING SO WITHOUT EXECUTIVE BRANCH APPROVAL OR INSTRUCTIONS. WE SAID THAT THE SENATOR APPARENTLY HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO GO TO NORTH KOREA, BUT SHOULD THE TRIP LATER MATERIALIZE WE WOULD KEEP THE ROKG INFORMED.

4. SINCE NO TRIP APPEARS IMMINENT, WE DID NOT PRESS AT THIS TIME THE SUGGESTION THAT ROKG INVITE MCGOVERN ALSO TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA WHILE IN THE AREA, BUT THIS WAS SUGGESTED TO COUNSELOR PARK AS USEFUL ROK INITIATIVE SHOULD THE SENATOR LATER DECIDE TO TRAVEL TO THE AREA.

5. COUNSELOR PARK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION.  
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TION, AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD HELP ALLAY DISTRUST IN SEOUL. HE HOPED USG WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE CODEL TO PYONGYANG IN NEAR FUTURE, AND IN PARTICULAR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS US-ROK SUMMIT MEETING COULD COMPLETELY DISPEL CLOUDS OF PAST TWO YEARS AND CEMENT THE BASIS FOR MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION ON TENSION REDUCING MEASURES ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** CODEL MCGOVERN POSSIBLE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA  
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